NIGHT LIKE THIS, WHAT YOU NEED, Y' SEE, IS SNOW TIRES.
HASN'T SNOWED IN BROXTON THESE FIFTY YEARS.
WHY THE HELL WOULD I OWN SNOW TIRES?
A NIGHT LIKE THIS?
STRANGE THINGS BEEN HAPPENING IN THESE PARTS OF OKLAHOMA SINCE THEY CAME TO LIVE HERE.
SNOW AIN'T THE STRANGEST.
BEAUTY PART, WE FINALLY GET TO MAKE SOME MONEY OUT OF THEM.
AN ORDER FOR TWENTY BARRELS OF BEER? I'D DRIVE THROUGH FIRE TO DELIVER THAT!
THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG.
SAY...DO Y' SUPPOSE THEY'RE HAVING SOME KIND O' PARTY?
ROLET

I GOT THIRTY DEEP CRUST PEPPERONI HERE, AND I NEED A SIGNATURE!
I am ANDRIMNIR, AND IT IS MY DUTY TO STAGE FEASTS AND FESTIVALS FOR THE AESIR.
HI.
DO YOU HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH THE BROXTON CHOPHOUSE? 'CAUSE THIS IS A LOT OF MEAT!
CARRY THE PROVISIONS THROUGH TO THE HALL, LADS. WHILE I MAKE MY MARK UPON THIS PARCHMENT.

WELCOME! WELCOME ALL!
VOLSTAGG BIDS YOU WELCOME!
TONIGHT, THE HALLS OF ASGARD WILL RING WITH THE NOISE OF FEASTING, A SOUND THAT HAS BEEN MISSING FROM OUR SAD HEARTH FOR TOO LONG!

SCRIPT	ART	COLOR ART	LETTERS
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I, BALDER, ADD MY WELCOME TO VOLSTAGG'S!
TONIGHT WE JOIN IN CELEBRATION OF THURSEBOLT, THE FEAST OF THOR, WHO IS ODINSON AND PROTECTOR OF MIDGARD!
ALAS, IN SUCH CAPACITY HE IS LATE FOR HIS OWN FEAST...
I'M SURE, GRIM HOGUN, THOR WILL BE WITH US AS SOON AS WHATEVER PRESENT DANGER IS PAST AND MORTALS ARE SAFE.
HE WOULD NOT WISH US TO WAIT...SO WE WILL NOT!
HAIL BRAGI, BARD OF THE AESIR!
THIS NIGHT WILL BE A BOOST FOR OUR MORALE, LADY SIF.
WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH MUCH OF LATE, MY LORD.
THE JOYS OF THE HALL HAVE BEEN SORELY MISSED.
FIST YE NOW! I AM BRAGI, AND WORDS I'LL SPIN THIS NIGHT!
THURSEBOLT, THE EVE OF THE FULL MOON IN JANUARY!
ON THIS OCCASION, I WILL RECITE A NEW VERSE, WRIT FOR THE VOLUSPÁ, THE EPIC SAGA OF THE ASGARDIANS!

"I WILL SING OF THOR! ODINSON! HAMMER-THROWER! LIGHTNING-CALLER! STORM-GOD! RESOLUTE AS MOUNTAINS!
"DEEDS AS MIGHTY AS THEY ARE NUMBERLESS! BRAVEST OF SOULS! BRIGHTEST OF SONS!"

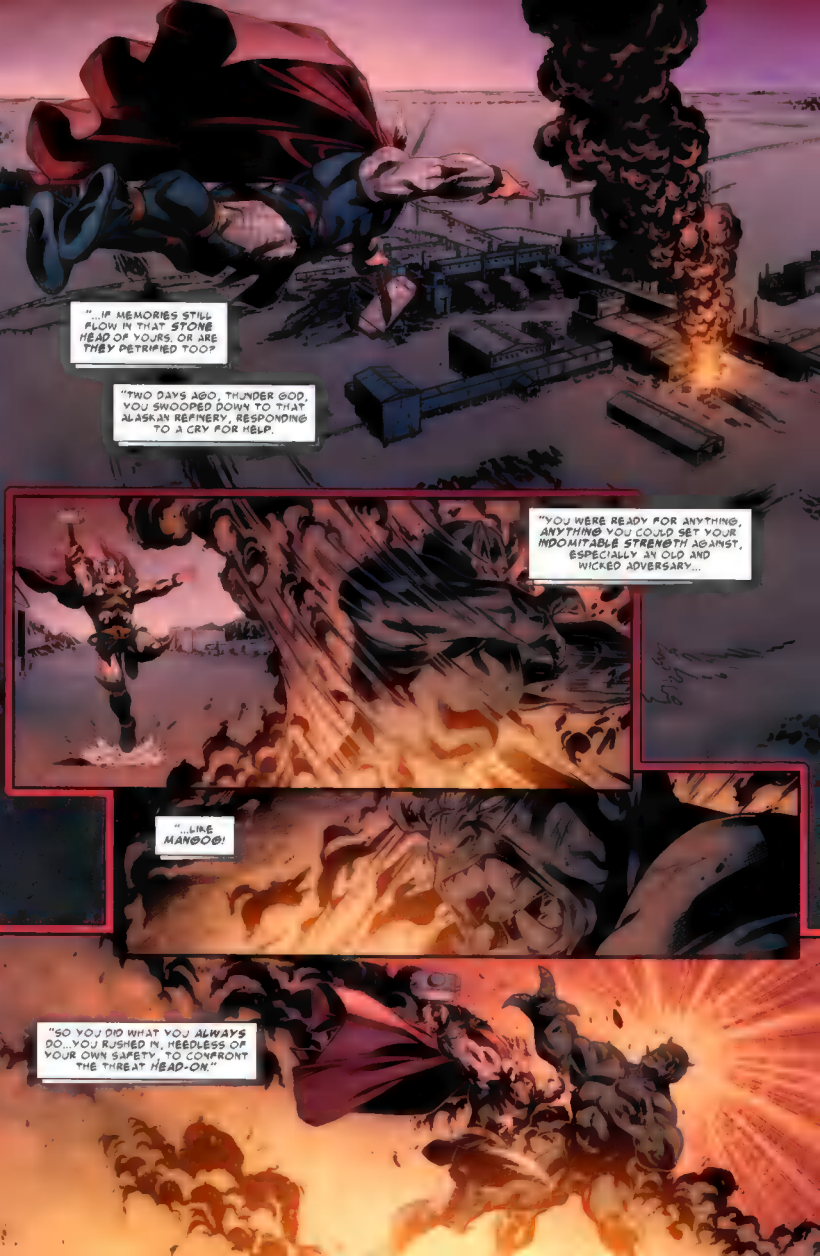
MIGHTY THOR! SON OF THE RAVEN-GOD!
LET US PRAISE HIS NAME TONIGHT AND TOAST HIS UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT!
AYE!
AYE!
AYE! RAISE YOUR CUP TO THE NAME AND HONOR OF MY BROTHER-IN-ARMS!
YOU HEAR THAT? THE CAROUSING IS ALREADY UNDERWAY!
THEY BEST LEAVE A SKIN OF ALE FOR ME!
MY LORD ANDRIMNIR...
...ANOTHER GUEST HAS ARRIVED.
SO I SEE!
WE WERE TOLD TO EXPECT YOU, FRIEND. SO ENTER IN AND ANNOUNCE YOURSELF!

...WE WERE ABOUT TO HEAR FROM BRAGI, OUR FINEST POET, WHO WOULD SING TO US OF THE EXPLOITS OF THE ODINSON.
HOW HE BECAME NOT JUST THE GREATEST SON OF ASGARD, BUT A WILLING AND DEVOTED CHAMPION OF THE MORTAL REALM MIDGARD.
IT WAS THOR WHO CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE MORTAL SENSIBILITY OF THE HUMAN SPHERE, AND SAW THAT THE LEAST OF ALL THE NINE WORLDS MIGHT NEED THE GREATEST PROTECTION.
SELFLESS HAS HE BEEN IN THAT DEFENSE EVER SINCE. SELFLESS, DAUNTLESS AND TIRELESS.
AND NOW, GREAT ASGARD ITSELF, LAID LOW BY WAR AND TUMULT, PHYSICALLY RESTS UPON THE MORTAL WORLD THAT THOR HAS MADE HIS OWN. EXILED...BUT NOT WITHOUT FRIENDS.

SO GREET MY FELLOW ASGARDIANS ONE AND ALL, GRAVELMIR. THEN TAKE YOUR SEAT SO THAT BRAGI'S TELLING MAY BEGIN.
AT ONCE, MY LORD.
MY GREETING TO YOU, SIR.
TO YOU, LADY.
PEACE BE UPON YOU THIS NIGHT.
AND TO YOU, AND YOU, BOLD LORD.
YES, YES. NOW LET US BEGIN BEFORE THE FOOD GETS--
--WAIT.
WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS?

YOU'VE TURNED THEM TO STONE!
WHAT FOUL MAGICKS HAVE YOU SMUGGLED INTO THE FASTNESS OF FALLEN ASGARD, ROCK GIANT?
"ROCK GIANT"?
PERHAPS LORD BALDER, YOU RECOGNIZE ME BETTER NOW!
GREY GARGOYLE!
SO, YOU CAST OFF YOUR DISGUISE, VILLAIN!
MANY ARE THE TALES MIGHTY THOR HAS TOLD OF YOUR MISDEEDS PON THE MOREAL SPHERE.
ALL THE BETTER TO CLOSE WITH YOU, MY LORD!
AND TO SEE YOU TRANSFORMED INTO LIVING STONE BY THE POWER OF MY VERY TOUCH!
N--

THERE.
HA.
THAT'S ALL OF THEM TRAPPED.
IT'S AN ACHIEVEMENT I'D LOVE TO SAVOR...
...BUT TIME IS SHORT. THEY'LL ONLY STAY STONE FOR AN HOUR, SUCH IS MY POWER'S LIMITATION.
AND I HAVE THIS MISBEGOTTEN EDIFICE TO SEARCH FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.
SO I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH YOUR THOUGHTS...


"...IF MEMORIES STILL FLOW IN THAT STONE HEAD OF YOURS. OR ARE THEY PETRIFIED TOO?
"TWO DAYS AGO, THUNDER GOD, YOU SWOOPED DOWN TO THAT ALASKAN REFINERY, RESPONDING TO A CRY FOR HELP.
"YOU WERE READY FOR ANYTHING, ANYTHING YOU COULD SET YOUR INDOMITABLE STRENGTH AGAINST, ESPECIALLY AN OLD AND WICKED ADVERSARY...
"...LIKE MANGOG!
"SO YOU DID WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO...YOU RUSHED IN, HEEDLESS OF YOUR OWN SAFETY, TO CONFRONT THE THREAT HEAD-ON."

"I SHED MY DISGUISE. FOR YEARS I HAVE BEEN FINESSING MY POWERS, AND ALL THE WHILE I HAVE BEEN RESEARCHING YOU, MY GREATEST FOE.
"THE MYTHS OF ASGARD MAKE FOR SUCH STIMULATING READING!
"AND YOU, THOR, YOU WOULD BE MY WAY INSIDE. I COULD MAINTAIN YOUR TRANSFORMATION BY TOUCHING YOU EVERY HOUR...
"...WHILE SHAPING THE DISGUISE OF A ROCK GIANT SCULPTURE AROUND MY HUMAN FORM.
"WHERE ELSE BUT THE HALL OF GODS COULD I OBTAIN THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY, THE SECRET I HAVE ALWAYS CRAVED?
WHAT'S THAT? STORM'S GRUMBLING?
SYMPTOMS OF YOUR HELPLESS RAGE, NO DOUBT!
GRUMBLE AWAY! I HAVE ALREADY FOUND ASGARD'S CHAMBER OF TREASURES!
SOMEWHERE IN HERE IS A SINGLE APPLE OF IDUNN, PLUCKED FROM THE WORLD TREE YGGDRASIL ITSELF!
THAT MAGIC FRUIT BESTOWS IMMORTALITY UPON WHOEVER EATS IT!

"AND ONCE I AM IMMORTAL, THE EFFECT OF MY STONE TOUCH WILL LAST FOREVER TOO!"
STORMS WEATHER ROCK GIVEN LONG ENOUGH...
...AND JUST AS SURELY, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, MY FORCE OF WILL SHALL ALWAYS SUMMON THE MIGHT OF MJOLNIR.

DAYS, GARGOYLE... IT'S TAKEN DAYS TO REGAIN MY FLESH AND BLOOD.
NOW I AWAKE TO FIND THE FALL OF ASGARD STILLED AND SILENT AS A GRAVEYARD.
WHERE ARE YOU, GARGOYLE...
"...WHERE ARE YOU?"
HAHA HAHA!
MINE!
MINE TO HOLD! MINE TO TREASURE! MINE TO TASTE!
I'LL--
UGHAK!

PAFF
CONSIDER THAT FORBIDDEN FRUIT, GARGOYLE.
I CAN URGE THE VERY STONES OF ASGARD TO FLOW AND UNSEAT THEMSELVES, THUNDER GOD...
BEHOLD! UP IN THE CHAMBER OF TREASURES!
SOME GREAT COMBAT! ALERT! ALERT!
...THEN SEIZE YOUR VAUNTED HAMMER WITH THE FORTITUDE OF A MOUNTAIN AND THE POWER OF A ROCK GIANT!

YAAAGGH!
GNNUGHH!
MJOLNIR KNOWS ITS TRUE MASTER, GARGOYLE!
THEN MJOLNIR'S MASTER WILL KNOW ONLY PAIN!
GAH!
YOU ARE A SKY-GOD, THOR! LOUD AND BRASH!
BUT STORMS BREAK AROUND THE ROCKS OF THE EARTH, AND THE AIR SURRENDERS TO STONE!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT--
WHAT? WHAT?!
SURRENDER? YOU EXPECT THAT FROM ME?
THE SURRENDER OF SOLIDITY... IMMOBILITY... THE SILENCE OF STONE!

NEXT ISSUE

MIGHTY THOR #1
ON SALE 4/27/2011

ASTONISHING THOR #4
ON SALE 5/4/2011

MIGHTY THOR #2
ON SALE 5/25/2011

THE END OF ALL THINGS

THOR #621 ON SALE NEXT WEEK

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